respective Governments. The Indian side agreed to respond to the pricing formula within a period of four weeks.

Subsequently, an Indian delegation participated in the 4th bilateral Working Group meeting with Pakistan on February 22-23, 2007 to discuss various issues relating to transit of IPI Pipeline through Pakistan. Iran attended the meeting as an Observer. The issues pertaining to transportation tariff and transit fee for passage of gas through Pakistan were, *inter alia*, discussed.

Negotiations are continuing on project structure, pricing, transportation tariff, transit fee, security, pipeline route, contractual obligaitons, etc. of the IPI project and efforts are being made to finalize these issues.

Increase in irrigation facilities in Vidarbha region

†*109. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the arrangement of funds has been made to increase the irrigation facilities in the Vidarbha region to start schemes from different sources;

(b) if so, the total extent of amount arranged; and

(c) the names of those schemes, out of these schemes which will be completed within three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) 8 major, 9 medium, 65 minor and 492 local sector irrigation schemes have been identified by the Government of Maharashtra for inclusion to the Vidarbha Package. The Central Government has to provide assistance through AIBP in case of major and medium irrigation projects as per the guidelines. The minor and local sector irrigation schemes are to be provided loan assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The support under AIBP has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. 974.84 crores. All the schemes are planned for completion within a period of 3 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.